

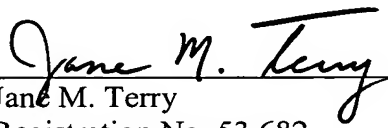
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Original Claims 1-22 have been currently amended, and new Claims 23 and 24 have been added. Claim amendments were made relative to the original Claims 1-22, as filed. Support for the amended and new claims can be found throughout the specification and in the original claims. Particular support for amended Claims 1-17 and 19-22 can be found in the respective original claims. Particular support for amended Claim 18 and new Claims 23 and 24 can be found in original Claim 18, and on pages 9-20 of the specification. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the amended and new claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment is now in condition for examination on the merits, and request early notice of such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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